



# Arizona Underage Drinking Prevention Committee

## Background and Authority

Arizona's Underage Drinking Prevention Committee was established as a sub-committee under the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership in 2005. Governor's Office for Children Youth and Families-Division for Substance Abuse Policy is currently leading this interagency committee that is coordinating underage drinking prevention efforts across relevant state systems. The committee has worked tirelessly to address the problem of underage drinking in Arizona by assessing statewide epidemiological data, resources, strategies and policies, and building relationships with tribes, youth, law enforcement, government agencies, and community coalitions. Partners on the committee include deputy directors, decision makers and representatives from government and advocacy agencies that directly influence underage drinking.

The UAD committee works to maintain a comprehensive statewide prevention system to prevent and reduce underage drinking and to improve the health and safety of the citizens of Arizona by: influencing state-level infrastructure change to improve cross coordination and collaboration between state agencies working to reduce UAD, modifying social and economic norms, conditions, and adverse consequences resulting from alcohol availability, manufacturing, distribution, promotion, sales, and use; and effectively address at-risk and underserved youth populations and their environments.

## Outcomes

- ✓ Arizona has continued to see decreases in reported past 30-day use on the Arizona Youth Survey, from 46.4 percent of 8th, 10th and 12th graders reporting past 30-day alcohol use in 2002 to 33.1 percent reporting use in 2008.
- ✓ Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) reported an 11 percent increase in youth awareness and knowledge of the health, social, behavioral, and economic problems associated with underage binge drinking and methamphetamine use, a 57 percent increase in perception of harm of alcohol use, and a 27.4 percent increase in negative attitudes towards substances in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, and Santa Cruz Counties, as well as Ak Chin Indian Community and Somerton.
- ✓ ADHS reported a five percent decrease in favorable attitudes towards substance use among adults, a 10-80 percent decrease in substance use, and a 14 percent increase in perceived harmfulness of substance youth among youth. In addition there was an 11 percent increase in refusal skills towards substance use/abuse for actively participating youth in Pima County, Bullhead City, and Prescott.
- ✓ In partnership with the Division for Substance Abuse Policy the Underage Drinking Prevention Committee developed and implemented a statewide social norms campaign, Draw the Line, regarding parental and adult norms, beliefs, and behaviors toward underage drinking.
- ✓ Enhanced data collection by adding questions to the Arizona Youth Survey regarding how youth obtain alcohol, if the youth have spoken with their parents regarding the dangers of alcohol and other drug use, and assessing youth exposure to substance abuse prevention ads.
- ✓ The Governor's Youth Commission released the Alcohol Retailer Mapping in Proximity to Youth (ARMPY) grant, mobilizing youth in 11 communities across the state on alcohol retail outlets and becoming involved in policy recommendations to reduce underage drinking.
- ✓ The Department of Liquor License and Control has conducted covert underage drinking programs throughout Arizona, resulting in the identification of illegal sales in 27 percent of locations in 2008, down from 31 percent in 2006.
- ✓ The Governor's Office for Highway Safety and the DUI Abatement Council funded the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and local law enforcement agencies to conduct local DUI Task Force groups, resulting in 1,502 underage drinking citations and 656 underage DUI arrests.

For additional information  
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